



Bay Trail Rider

The Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project
Administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments

Winter/Spring 1998

Regional Development Program Enters 2nd Year – Funds Five New Projects!



View of the Bay from Agua Vista Park - Southeast S.F. Bay Trail Project

Five new Bay Trail development projects have just been awarded a total of \$800,000 from this year's Regional Development Program (RDP)! This is the second year the Bay Trail Project has partnered with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to deliver this innovative competitive grant program. The RDP leverages local public and private funds to construct Bay Trail segments, employing the CCC wherever possible. This year, the winning projects will complete almost ten new miles of Bay Trail, and will leverage nearly \$10 million in total funds and matching contributions!

Ten terrific project applications were submitted. The five winners will construct trail all over the Bay Area: Southeast San Francisco Bay Trail, Embarcadero Bay Trail in Oakland, Main Street Linear Park Project in Alameda, Oyster Point Shoreline Bay Trail in South San Francisco, and Shoreline Park Trail in San Rafael.

Project applications were evaluated and scored by a selection committee according to: project readiness, completion of critical Bay Trail segments, involvement of the CCC, formation of collaborative partnerships, and demonstrated community support. The Committee was particularly impressed with the high quality of project

submittals, as well as the creative approaches to employing the CCC.

The **Southeast San Francisco Bay Trail** project will receive just over \$300,000 to complete about six miles of Bay Trail between China Basin and the north edge of Hunter's Point. The Committee appreciated the grand vision and foresight of this project that brings together a multitude of city and county agencies including Public Works, the Port, the Redevelopment Agency and many others, as well as San Francisco Beautiful and other non-profit and private organizations.

At India Basin, 2.1 miles of bike route, hiking and multi-purpose trail will be developed from the Pier 98 peninsula to India Basin Shoreline Park. Eventually, this will connect to a planned shoreline trail extending south through to Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard. CCC crews will partner with San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) to construct trails and viewing areas, install benches and native plants, and provide maintenance.

The **Embarcadero Bay Trail** project in Oakland will use its \$250,000 grant award to build 3.4 miles of bike lanes, bike routes and separated multi-purpose trails along the Oakland waterfront, extending from near Jack London Square south to Fruitvale Avenue. The project will connect to BART, Amtrak and existing and proposed trails along the waterfront and in downtown Oakland.

The City of Alameda's **Main Street Linear Park** project will be a half mile bicycle/pedestrian trail within a new linear park along Main Street. The \$100,000 award provides Bay Trail enhancements and will employ CCC crews to install benches, trail signage, trash receptacles and bike racks, and



Continued on page 2

maintain the park. This project will also extend the Bay Trail to the Alameda Main Street Ferry Terminal.

Oyster Point Marina Park in South San Francisco is an important gap connecting an existing trail that dead ends at a bridge south of the Marina to existing trail north of the Marina. The \$75,000 grant will be matched with local and private funds to install approximately half a mile of paved multi-use trail with the help of the CCC. Improvements include a retaining wall above the bridge, and benches. A wind surf access ramp will be installed concurrently with the project.

San Rafael will use nearly \$73,000 to complete the **Shoreline Park Bay Trail** project by extending an existing paved segment of the Bay Trail 0.1 miles

along a shoreline levee. Shoreline Park is a vital and well-used part of Marin's recreational system. Trail users will enjoy expansive views across the water to three counties, the Marin Islands, and the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge. CCC crews will form a unique partnership with Marin Conservation Corps crews to install specially designed protective fencing, repair the levees, clear weeds and install native vegetation.

The Bay Trail Project is thrilled to embark on the second year of the RDP, made possible thanks to the vision and diligent efforts of State Senator Bill Lockyer. Last year, \$160,000 in RDP money funded three projects and leveraged over one million dollars. Next year, we hope to announce a third round of funding and another set of bold new projects.

For more information, call Janet McBride at (510) 464-7935, or email JanetM@abag.ca.gov.

Dedication Ceremony at Oyster Bay

By Carla Wedner and Margo Yetemwork

A grand opening ceremony was held on November 22, 1997 to mark the completion of the first project using Regional Development Program (RDP) funds. The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) completed this section of trail, located at the Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Park in San Leandro.

To celebrate, the Bay Trail Project hosted a dedication ceremony at the Oyster Bay trail site. Sixty people attended and were rewarded with the opportunity to meet key players in the evolution of the RDP. (See page 1 for background on the RDP.)

Bay Trail Rider, the newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, highlights the progress and development of the Bay Trail.

Check out the **Bay Trail website** for news and updates, upcoming events, meetings, and announcements:

<http://www.abag.ca.gov/bayarea/baytrail/baytrail.html>

For more information call 510/464-7935.

Contributors

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Victoria Eisen, Bay Trail Planner
Karen Moonitz, Bay Trail Planner
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The ceremony was moderated by Mary King, Alameda County Supervisor and ABAG President. Speakers included State Senator Bill Lockyer, President Pro Tempore; Al Aramburu, Director, California Conservation Corps (CCC); and Doug Siden, Board President, East Bay Regional Park District. Awards were given to Senator Lockyer, Al Aramburu, and Lockyer aid Tim Gage for their support of the Bay Trail and for securing funds for the RDP.

The Oyster Bay trail project employed CCC crews to prepare the site, clear brush, and install signs and benches. The EBRPD paved the trail, improving public access to the park entrance and to existing Bay Trail segments. The site is now ready for walking, running, and cycling. **Enjoy!**



Honored guest Senator Lockyer at the dedication.



CCC Crews recognized for their diligent work at Oyster Bay.

North Bay Corridor Study

By Ceil Scandone

The Bay Trail Project recently participated in the North Bay Corridor Study, a year-long collaboration managed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

Participants included the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Caltrans, Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties, the City of Vallejo, California Department of Fish and Game, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation organizations, and trails advocates.

The Study objective was to develop mutually supportive recommendations for improving transportation operations and capacity, wildlife habitat and trails in the North Bay. By putting habitat and public access issues on an equal footing with transportation, this innovative effort established a new standard for cooperative planning.

Study Focus

The North Bay corridor is defined by Highway 101 to the west, State Routes 116, 12, 121 and 29 to the north; State Route 29 to the east; and the San Pablo Bay shoreline to the south. The current alignment through the corridor consists primarily of Class III bicycle facilities on heavily traveled roadways which is challenging for even the most

confident cyclists. The North Bay Corridor Study provided an opportunity to take a fresh look at new alignment opportunities.

In particular, the Bay Trail is interested in a route between Novato and Vallejo along Highway 37 that would provide access to any planned public recreation or education facilities, and would accommodate the full range of trail users.

Conclusions

The Study concludes that present demands do not warrant expansion of State Route 37. However, if future widening occurs, or if a dike is required to protect the existing road from flooding due to wetlands restoration, public access and trail facilities should be integrated into the design.

In the short term, opportunities exist to improve safety for all travelers, through shoulder widening and intersection improvements.

New alignment opportunities include a north-south connection between Ramal Road in Sonoma County and Highway 37 via Scaggs Island Road, and an alternative to State Route 29 that would connect proposed trails in the cities of American Canyon and Napa through Napa County along the Napa River. Staff will continue to work closely with North Bay communities to explore these exciting opportunities.

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San Francisco International Airport – Bay Trail Alignment Plan

The San Francisco International Airport (SFIA) expansion provides a unique window of opportunity for extending the Bay Trail in San Mateo County. A Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) permit condition directed SFIA, using San Mateo County as their agent, to provide a public access trail (Bay Trail) around SFIA, and to conduct a feasibility study to identify a preferred trail alignment. Study results will be published shortly in the Bay Trail Alignment Plan (BTAP).



The effort has been skillfully guided by a team of consultants led by Patrick Miller of 2M Associates. The selected preferred alignment is one of several alternatives scrutinized by a Technical Advisory Committee that was convened to discuss issues and provide recommendations to help identify the best location for the trail in this area. The 18-member committee included representatives of all the federal, state and local responsible and interested agencies, and local trail and bicycle advocacy groups.

The BTAP also contains recommendations for trail design, management strategies and possible funding sources for constructing the trail. Trail operation and management issues are still being negotiated and additional funding must be secured. Environmental review is expected to begin in early February; construction could begin within the next few years.

The preferred alignment is an important Bay Trail link, providing a connection over Highway 101 and skirting endangered species habitat in the “West of Bayshore” (WOB) area.

Trail signs will educate users about resident endangered species and fencing and other design treatments will ensure that visitors respect sensitive habitat and stay on the trail!

Special Recognition for Four Bay Trail Friends

At the 1997 Summer Board meeting, four individuals were recognized for their extraordinary contributions to project implementation. Hearty congratulations and deep thanks to these very special friends.

Irv Besser, Bay Trail Charter Board Member and Treasurer, was recognized in memoriam for his early integral role, as well as his staunch and continuing support. Irv helped establish the original mission, goals and nonprofit by-laws that created the project. He then went on to serve over seven years as Board Treasurer. We miss him greatly.

Jill Keimach, former Bay Trail Project Manager, shepherded all Bay Trail activities for over seven years. To a great extent, the Bay Trail Project today is the embodiment of Jill's efforts. Not only did she serve as a stellar and consummate professional, she devoted considerable personal hours and energies to the project. The Bay Trail continues to reap a bountiful harvest from the seeds sown by Jill's leadership, hard work and commitment to excellence.

Anne Rockwell, Park Supervisor, Robert Crown Memorial State Beach, East Bay Regional Park District, was recognized for her help in planning and hosting National Trails Day activities. The East Bay Regional Park and Bay Trail staff jointly held a tremendously successful sign dedication event at Crown Memorial Beach. We really appreciate Ann's efforts and look forward to future collaborations!

Brian Wiese, former Bay Trail Development Coordinator, served tirelessly for three and a half years to implement the Bay Trail. Noteworthy accomplishments include assisting jurisdictions to secure funding and consistent representation of the Bay Trail in numerous major planning efforts, including the Oakland Waterfront and Mandela Parkway, Richmond's Point Molate, and the Carquinez Straits Preservation Trust. It is our good fortune that, while Brian has left the Bay Trail staff, we continue to work with him through his current activities at the East Bay Regional Park District.

Irv Besser Memorial Fund

(Photo of Irv)

Irv Besser

The Bay Trail Project lost a staunch supporter when charter Boardmember Irv Besser passed away on May 7, 1997. Irv's gracious family designated the Bay Trail as the recipient for donations in his memory. Friends and colleagues have responded generously and funds are still being received.

Donations in Irv's memory will be used to establish a lasting memorial. With the concurrence of Irv's wife, Harriet, and their children, the

Bay Trail will purchase a bench at Palo Alto Baylands. Assisted by Greg Betts, Palo Alto's Community Affairs Manager, and friends Ellen Fletcher, Bruce Heflinger and Norton Bell, Harriet and staff selected a site on the Trail with a spectacular view across the Bay. A dedication ceremony is planned for May 31, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.

If you would like to attend the dedication ceremony, please call 510/464-7961, or email ceils@abag.ca.gov and leave your name and address. Once

the details are finalized, we will send you an invitation and map.

To contribute to the Irv Besser memorial bench, please send a check payable to the Bay Trail Project to:

Bay Trail Project
Irv Besser Memorial Fund
c/o ABAG
P. O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

A complete list of contributors will be printed in the next issue of *Bay Trail Rider*.

TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS: New Trail Segments, Plans & Opportunities

MARIN

San Rafael. Shoreline Park * will extend the existing trail along a shoreline levee in San Rafael; affording beautiful and expansive views.

CONTRA COSTA

City of San Pablo. Wildcat Creek Trail from Rumrill Blvd. to Davis Park is now complete and open to the public. This connector to the Bay Trail was completed with the help of funds awarded in the 1997 Regional Development Program.

SAN FRANCISCO

Southeast San Francisco *. A broad-based partnership will complete approx. 6 miles of trail between China Basin and the edge of Hunter's Point, ensuring the Bay Trail infrastructure in an area ripe for redevelopment.

ALAMEDA

Oakland. Embarcadero Bay Trail * will add 3.4 new Bay Trail miles along the Oakland waterfront between Jack London Square and Fruitvale Avenue.

City of Alameda. Main Street Linear Park * will result in a 0.1 mile bicycle/pedestrian segment within a new linear park along Main Street that will also connect to the ferry terminal.

City of San Leandro. The last mile of Bay Trail at **Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline Park**, is now complete and open to the public. Funds from the Regional Development Program 1997 were awarded to EBRPD and leveraged with local and private funds to complete the project.

SAN MATEO

South San Francisco. Oyster Point Marina Park *. The Harbor District will complete an important half mile gap, connecting to existing trail and providing multiple improvements.

San Francisco International Airport. The Bay Trail Alignment Plan will be published shortly. It sets forth a "preferred" alignment, as well as recommendations for design, implementation, management strategies and possible funding sources.

BAY AREA TOLL BRIDGES

San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge

Caltrans is currently developing designs for the replacement East Span: half will include a bicycle/pedestrian pathway and two that do not. Led by Bay Trail Project staff, advocacy groups from all over the Bay Area are participating. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission will make the final decision whether to build the pathway in summer 1998.

Richmond - San Rafael Bridge

A feasibility study of bicycle, pedestrian and wheelchair access on the bridge is almost complete. Caltrans is developing cost estimates for two design options, access to the existing shoulder and a new cantilevered pathway. A final design recommendation is expected by summer 1998.

Hayward - San Mateo Bridge

The eastern, trestle section of the bridge will be widened from two to three lanes in each direction. Bicycle advocates are working with the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to urge Caltrans to include a pathway in the project.

* Project received partial funding under the 1998 Regional Development Program. See article on page 1.

Bay Trail Maps Now Available in Convenient New Packaging

The nine full-color Bay Trail maps are now available in one clear vinyl, tri-folded pack. The new durable packaging is the same size as standard folded maps such as AAA maps. For better organization and easier access, each map has its own individual pocket. As always, existing and proposed Bay Trail routes are shown on the nine water-resistant 11-by-17 inch maps.

Maps may be purchased from ABAG by calling 510/464-7900. Each set costs \$10.95 plus tax (shipping is free). Individual maps are \$1.50. Maps are also available in Bay Area bookstores and may soon be available in bike stores.

Special Events — Mark your Calendar

April 25 and 26, California Trail Days

This weekend marks the 13th Annual Spring California Trail Days. Contact the CTD "hot" line (800) 325-2843 or the California Trails Greenways Foundation at (800) 325-2843 for information.

Sunday, May 31, 3:00 pm

Irv Besser Memorial Bench Dedication, Palo Alto Baylands

Join us for a dedication ceremony in memory of charter Boardmember and Bay Trail supporter Irv Besser. (See article on p. 3 re. contact for details.)

Saturday, June 20 – Marin Headlands Mountain Bike Ride

Meet in Justin Herman Plaza, San Francisco at 9:00 am. Ride along Embarcadero, over Golden Gate Bridge to the Marin Headlands. Then cross Gerbode Valley on the Coastal and Bobcat Trails and descend into Tennessee Valley on Marinello Road. After relaxing at Tennessee Cove, ride to the Sausalito Ferry by way of the Bay Trail. Be prepared for fog and wind. Sponsored by the Bicycle Trails Council of Marin. For questions contact Brian Hill, 415-431-3841 or e-mail bhill@wiggles.sf.ca.us

Saturday, July 18 – Mountain Bike Ride

Ride down the Alameda Creek Trail and follow the Bay Trail beyond Coyote Hills. Traverse through Coyote Hills. Ride ends by looping back up the Niles Creek trail and over to Union City BART. Sponsored by the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay. Questions: Paul Avila, 510-713-9473 or e-mail pa.orbit@mc.i2000.com

SHORT CUTS

The Baumberg Tract

Bay Trail Project staff is working with the State Department of Fish and Game and other interested agencies and groups to develop a habitat restoration and management plan for this parcel, south of Highway 92 in Hayward. The final plan should be complete in spring 1998.

Welcome New Boardmember

Carol Streeter, Senior Transportation Planner for Caltrans District 4, replaces **Judy Chen** as Caltrans' representative on the Bay Trail Board. Carol is leading the Richmond - San Rafael Bridge feasibility study and is in charge of the District's bicycle program.

Staff News

Janet McBride replaces Acting Project Manager **Victoria Eisen** as the Bay Trail Project Manager. Janet has over 15 years of experience in land use, policy analysis and environmental planning, including over 7 years as a Senior Planner at ABAG. Victoria has moved on to develop land use/transportation policy at ABAG. She will continue Bay Trail involvement, working to provide non-motorized access on the Bay Area's toll bridges.

Special thanks to the **San Mateo County Transportation Authority** for approving two TSM funding requests for Bay Trail projects. The San Mateo Harbor District's Oyster Point Shoreline Trail will use TSM funding, along with other secured contributions, as a match for regional development program funds.



The San Francisco Bay Trail Project
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